

Antelope Valley Study, Lincoln, Nebraska

Project Number M-5244 (3)

**Draft
Environmental Impact Statement
and Section 4(f) Statement**

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2) (c) and 49 U.S.C. 303

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
Nebraska Department of Roads
City of Lincoln, Nebraska
Lower Platte South Natural Resources District
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Cooperating Agencies
US Army Corps of Engineers
and
US Department of Housing and Urban Development

6/15/00
Date

Allan L. Ahlert
City of Lincoln

6/15/00
Date

Wayne G. Gerten
NE Dept. of Roads

6/15/00
Date of Approval

Edward W. Kosola
FHWA

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The City of Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (collectively known as the Partners) undertook a Major Investment Study (MIS) of the Antelope Valley (AV) area of Lincoln, Nebraska. The MIS focused on three major issues, including stormwater management, transportation improvements, and community revitalization. The Partners have taken a unified approach to meeting needs identified through the MIS process, resulting in a preferred alternative known as the Amended Draft Single Package. This Environmental Impact Statement evaluates that alternative and the No-Action Alternative.

Comments on the draft EIS are due by August 15, 2000, or 45 days after notice of DEIS availability is published in the Federal Register, whichever is later, and should be sent to: Roger Figard, City Engineer, City of Lincoln, 1001 6th Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT STATEMENT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 USC 4321-4347, became effective January 1, 1970. This law requires that all federal agencies have prepared for every recommendation or report on proposals for legislation and other major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and US Army Corps of Engineers are therefore required to have prepared an EIS on proposals that are to be funded under their authority if the proposal is determined to be a major action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

EISs are required for many transportation and flood control projects as outlined in NEPA. The process of an EIS is carried out in two stages. Draft EISs are first written and forwarded for review and comment to federal, state, and local agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise, and are then made available to the public. This availability to the public must occur at least 15 days before the public hearing, and no later than the time of the first public hearing notice or notice for opportunity for a hearing. Normally, 45 days plus mailing time will be allowed for comments to be made on the Draft EIS unless a time extension is granted by the Realty Officer, Nebraska Division, Federal Highway Administration. After this period has elapsed, preparation can begin on the Final EIS.

Final EISs are prepared to reflect the distribution of the Draft Statement by including the following:

1. Basic content of the Draft Statement as amended due to the internal agency comments, editing, additional or modified alternatives being considered, and changes due to the time difference between the Draft and Final EIS.
2. Summary of public hearing environmental comments.
3. Summary of other comments received on the Draft Statement.
4. Evaluation and disposition of each substantive comment.

Any administrative action cannot take place sooner than 90 days after circulation of the Draft Statement to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or 30 days after submittal of the Final Statement of the EPA.

Both the Draft and Final EIS are full disclosure documents, which provide a comprehensive proposed project, the existing environment, and the analyses of the anticipated beneficial or adverse environmental effects.

GENERAL REVIEWER INFORMATION

Major topics are divided into Chapters, each with a separate page-numbering sequence. Exhibits pertaining to each Chapter are located within each Chapter.

A fold-out map for the Amended Draft Single Package Alternative is located between the Table of Contents and the Summary on page xiv, and a fold-out map for the No Action Alternative is at the last page of this EIS.

EIS plans showing the Amended Draft Single Package and other information are located in Appendix I.

Dimensions, distances, volumes, etc. are shown in metric units, followed by English units (in parentheses).

A list of abbreviations and acronyms is included in the Appendix.